

26th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### Changes to the School Day

I am writing to share our proposed changes to the structure of the school day here at North Walsall Primary Academy.

As you are all aware, during the national lockdowns children have had to adapt to a completely different way of learning, via their Remote Blended Learning offer. This has been hugely successful throughout the academy, thanks to your wonderful support, the hard work of your children and the continued efforts and great skill of our staff.

During the period of lockdown, we have been able to make sure that your child has been taught by their own teacher, including during the times of the day and week when, ordinarily, the class would have been taught by a different member of staff during teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time. This has given our Senior Leadership Team an opportunity to reflect on how things can be improved going forward, to ensure that we continue to provide the highest-quality, most consistent education.

#### **Current Situation:**

- Children attend school from 8.50am-3.15pm, Monday to Friday.
- 10% of every teacher's timetable must be spent out of class for dedicated PPA time.
- During teachers' PPA time, each class is taught by a different cover teacher or other suitably qualified member of staff.
- The adult covering PPA time often changes each week due to the wide range of timetable, leadership and teaching commitments each member of staff has.
- When additional cover is needed, for example to allow teachers to attend training to help us improve the quality of education across our academy classes are, again, covered by different staff each time.

Wide ranging national and international education research shows that quality-first teaching, high-quality training for teachers and coherent, consistent curriculum delivery are the most significant factors in securing the best pupil progress.

I would therefore like to put forward to you a new proposal which would affect the structure of the school day, as follows:

## **Proposed Changes**

### **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday:**

Children attend school from 8.45am – 3.15pm

### **Friday:**

Children attend school from 8.45am – 12.45pm (including lunch)

During the afternoon, children will then learn remotely from home, accessing our full curriculum via the methods in our remote education strategy, including pre-teaching, pre-recorded lessons and practical tasks.

By allowing PPA to be taken by all teachers at the same time during a Friday afternoon, we would be able to ensure consistency for all children, allowing them to be taught by their own class teacher every day throughout the week, rather than different members of staff.

I appreciate these changes may affect you in terms of childcare and for this reason we would offer a facility for all children, whose parents **both** work, to remain in school until 3.15pm. Please note, you would be asked to supply suitable written evidence of employment, before a place will be allocated for your child. Children remaining in school would be supported to complete their remote learning offer.

These changes will in no way reduce the amount of learning your child receives, or have any detrimental effect on their learning. They will, however, ensure your child receives a consistent, robust and varied timetable, which will allow all our children to progress to the best of their ability and benefit from consistent staffing along with the significant benefits of shared planning time and training for staff.

Should these changes be approved, they would begin after the Easter holidays, with effect from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

To ensure wide ranging consultation, this letter has also been sent to our Chief Executive Officer at Academy Transformation Trust, our Board of Trustees, our Local Academy Committee (LAC), all staff and members of the local community – including the local authority. We will, of course, continue to work together to ensure full consultation and the opportunity to discuss this fully.

I would like to invite you to share any feedback or ask any questions via the following email: [postbox@nwpa.attrust.org.uk](mailto:postbox@nwpa.attrust.org.uk).

You can also post a written response directly to our Academy address.

If you are unable to respond as suggested above, please make contact with the school office and we will support you to ensure you are able to contribute fully to the consultation. **Please note, all**

**responses will need to be received into the academy by Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the very latest.**

Any responses received after this date will not be considered. The formal consultation process will close on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

Following the consultation period, I will write again to share the outcome and our resulting next steps.

Thank you for your continued support for your children and our academy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hawkins', written in a cursive style.

Miss Natalie Hawkins  
**Principal**